

Nea Lead Facilitator Report ***October***

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Organization

We use organization to...

- Select and apply appropriate technology to the task
- Effectively use technology to critically gather information
- Choose appropriate technology to communicate ideas
- Participate in decisions that affect the learning experience
- Effectively organize and manage time and tasks

Pluses(+)

1. WASC and AUSD visits
2. Attendance Officer
3. Intentional Staff Collaboration

Challenges Inspiring Changes (Deltas: Δ)

1. Implementing PBL with new facilitators
2. Staff transitions
3. Truancy

Executive Summary:

1. WASC & AUSD Visits - Recap
2. 5th-6th & 8th-9th-grade retention plan
3. Truancy
4. Jr. Coaches Program
5. MAP Assessment Overview

1. WASC & AUSD Visit -

WASC -

During the 2014-2015 school year, Nea Community Learning Center (Nea) participated in the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) self-study accreditation process. The self-study process involved the entire school community, including teachers, staff, parents, and students. The process helped us complete a detailed self-analysis of our strengths, refinements, and critical areas for follow-up. At the end of the process, Nea received a six-year accreditation and had a mid-cycle two-day visit in February 2017.

On Wednesday, October 3rd, a WASC visiting committee was on site to monitor our interim progress report findings. Members of the WASC committee spoke with site leadership, facilitators, parents, and learners. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive. The committee was very pleased with our efforts to strengthen our Upper Village academic program, our facilities, and master scheduling expansions to support the program's philosophy, and found our new data analysis structures encouraging.

AUSD -

On Tuesday, October 2nd and Thursday, October 4th, Alameda Unified School District members visited our campus for our upcoming charter renewal performance review. A group of representatives met with various focus groups on each day. Site leadership, facilitators, parents, learners, and board members all held several focus group sessions. Overall, the feedback was positive. The visiting committee did highlight a desire to observe more learner engagement, collaborative work, and basic classroom management and organizational structures.

Nea is scheduled to present our charter renewal to the AUSD school board on **Tuesday, October 23rd**. The following criteria will be used during the charter evaluation process.

A charter school requesting renewal will be assessed according to the following Charter Renewal Standards:

- I) Is the school Academically Sound?
- II) Is the school an Effective, Viable Organization?
- III) Has the school been Faithful to the Terms of its Charter and Operated Consistent with the Law?

In addition to the three areas above, evaluation of a charter school renewal request will take into consideration its "plans for a future charter term" as described in the renewal petition pursuant to the questions asked in Education Code § 47605(b)(5):

IV) Are the school's plans for a future charter term Reasonably Comprehensive?

- Does the renewal petition contain reasonably comprehensive descriptions of the required elements?
- Does the renewal petition contain the required affirmations and assurances? Consistent with the law, the primary criterion for renewal will be the academic performance of the school's students over the course of the current charter term.

2. 5th-6th & 8th-9th-grade retention plan -

To retain Lower Village learners entering the Upper Village shadow days are being implemented. Once a year, groups of 5th-grade learners are partnered with 6th-grade learners and shadow them for half a day. Last year's success rates suggest this strategy will continue as 25 learners were retained from 5th grade and are now 6th graders at Nea. In addition, Seniors hold movie nights for the lower village learners throughout the school year. These evenings are opportunities to build learner partnerships between village learners.

To retain 8th-grade learners entering Nea's high school program a number of efforts are underway. First, promoting the Project Based Learning philosophy of Nea and emphasizing why that sets us apart from traditional Alameda and Bay Area high schools will be evident at our Expo Night on December 5th. Personally inviting 8th-grade learners and parents to attend the Expo Night will speak volumes about Nea's personal approach to learning. Second, information nights are held in January for 8th-grade learners and parents to receive valuable information about the Nea high school program. Our School Counselor and Lead Facilitator communicate the rigorous academic program, the four-year college plan, and are available to answer any questions learners or parents may have about high school at Nea.

3. Truancy -

Consistent school attendance is critical to school success. Being present for classroom instructional time is essential for learners to reach their goals and achieve their dreams. Chronic absenteeism has been linked to an increased likelihood of poor academic performance, disengagement from school and behavior problems. A school attendance office was hired to improve our ADA. Sabunmi Woods is the CLCS Attendance Officer. Her role with the organization is to support the success of learners attending class on-time.

The Attendance Officer is responsible for coordinating attendance and truancy efforts at assigned schools. He/she is responsible to develop, implement and maintain plans to address attendance and truancy issues in the school. In addition, this position enforces California attendance Law and Ed Code with learners and families; interprets attendance policies; works as a team member to develop prevention/intervention strategies; provides case management; monitors learner progress, and makes referrals.

Upper Village currently has 34 learners in truant status. This number is higher than average, but now that an attendance officer is in place the number will decrease dramatically. In addition to the attendance officer's responsibilities, the Nea office personnel are working tirelessly to improve our ADA. We are working closely with families prevent truancy notices.

Daily office efforts:

- phone calls starting at 8:45 am - starting with LV and then UV for all learners that are 30 minutes late.
- closing off all tardies
- For excusing absences for kids who leave for appointments and then return, or who have gone for the rest of the day

4. Jr. Coaches Program

Our Yard Supervisor, Coach Tay, has an eager group of learners each day that participate in her Junior Coach Program. The learner's interviewed for the job at the beginning of the year knowing that their commitment to take out yard equipment, help run games and support as school as necessary will be all year. Coach Tay had a tough decision to make because 22 kids applied for the 1 position. The learners are doing a great job working in the Nea community.

5. MAP Assessment Overview

MAP assessments were completed by the end of Sept. This first round, meant to be used as a baseline for learner performance, took longer than anticipated due to the change in enrollment as new learners were being added. The ELA and Math Departments teams met to look at grade level performance, as well as areas of growth and trends across the subject area. This information is formative for facilitators and will be used to incorporate strategies and practice around specific standards that need more focus. Former Benchmarks given during Benchmark week in UV will be summative data based on mastery of content knowledge which will be used as a true benchmark moving forward and administered twice per year. This year's timeline is listed below.

Baseline assessment: Fall season Aug-Sept.

End of Year assessment: Spring season (May 21- Jun 1)